

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 01800 201806Z
ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-03 SP-02
L-01 H-01 PRS-01 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 IO-06 EB-04
/051 W

-----201813 119410 /53

O 201633Z FEB 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6676

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1800

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, VE
SUBJECT: REACTION TO ALLEGATIONS OF CIA PAYMENTS TO PEREZ

1. THIS MORNING'S PRESS (FEBRUARY 20) FEATURES
STORIES OF NEW YORK TIMES ALLEGATIONS THAT CIA
PAYMENTS MADE TO VARIOUS CHIEFS OF STATE, INCLUDING
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ. PRESS ALSO REPORTS INDIGNANT
DENIALS BY GOV THAT THIS WAS CASE, AND GOV CHARGES THAT
THIS IS AN EFFORT TO SMEAR PEREZ BECAUSE OF HIS STAND
ON OIL NATIONALIZATION AND OPEC.

2. VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO UN, SIMON CONSALVI, ISSUED
STATEMENT IN NEW YORK, WHICH LOCAL PRESS STATES WAS
PERSONALLY AUTHORIZED BY PEREZ, LABELING CHARGES FALSE,
AND IRRESPONSIBLE. CONSALVI IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT
THIS WAS THE SECOND TIME IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS THAT
THE NEW YORK TIMES HAS MALICIOUSLY MALIGNED THE PRESIDENT
OF VENEZUELA (REFERRING TO EARLIER BINDER STORY
ON PEREZ AND CUBAN EXILES (76 CARACAS 12855).
CONSALVI'S STATEMENT ADDS: "I AM AUTHORIZED TO DENY
CATEGORICALLY THIS FALSE VERSION, WHOSE PURPOSES ARE
DISTURBING. THE PRESENT PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 01800 201806Z

NEVER RECEIVED CIA FUNDS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FOR
ANY PURPOSE, PERSONAL OR GOVERNMENTAL. WE CONSIDER
THE FACT ALARMING THAT A PAPER LIKE THE NYTIMES
WOULD PUBLISH IN ITS PAGES, AND DISSEMINATE OR BE THE
SOURCE OF WORLD DISSEMINATION ANONYMOUS INFORMATION
WITHOUT A RESPONSIBLE SOURCE, WHICH DAMAGES OR TRIES
TO DAMAGE PERSONALITIES LIKE THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA.

EVEN THOUGH THIS MUST BE THE SUBJECT OF SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY MY GOVERNMENT, AND RESERVING WHAT ACTIONS VENEZUELA MAY INTEND, I DO STATE THAT THIS VERSION IS ABSOLUTELY FALSE AND IRRESPONSIBLE, AND CAN ONLY BE CONNECTED WITH THE MINDLESS CAMPAGIN BEING CARRIED ON FROM THE UNITED STATES AGAINST OPEC COUNTRIES".

3. MINISTER OF INTERIOR LEPAGE ALSO ISSUED STATEMENT LAST NIGHT DENYING STORY AND ATTRIBUTING IT TO RETALIATION FOR NATIONALIZATION OF OIL AND STEEL INDUSTRIES AND VENEZUELA'S OPEC STAND. AFTER STATING THAT HE WAS SURE NO ONE IN VENEZUELA COULD DOUBT PRESIDENT'S INTEGRITY, LEPAGE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THIS WAS NOT JUST THE IRRESPONSIBLE ACTION OF ONE CORRESPONDENT TRYING TO BE SENSATIONALIST. RATHER IT APPEARS TO BE CONNECTED TO THE FIRM AND RESOLUTE NATIONALIST STAND TAKEN BY PRESIDENT PEREZ. "THEY ARE ATTEMPTING IN THIS WAY TO MAKE US PAY FOR THE NATIONALIZATION OF OIL AND STEEL, AND THE FIRM POSITION OF VENEZUELA INOPEC."

4. COMMENT: THIS IS A MOST UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT WHOSE CONSEQUENCES ARE GOING TO AFFECT THE WHOLE RANGE OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS. THE STORM HAS YET TO CREST HERE. PEREZ, ONCE BEFORE DEEPLY INDIGNANT OVER WHAT HE THOUGHT WERE MALIGNING REPORTS ABOUT HIS CONTACTS WITH CUBAN EXILES, WILL NOW BE DOUBLY INDIGNANT AND OUTRAGED. THE LINE THAT THIS IS A DELIBERATE PLOT TO MALIGN AND DISCREDIT PEREZ AND VENEZUELA IS NOT JUST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 01800 201806Z

RHETORIC. IT IS VERY LIKELY BELIEVED TO A GREAT DEGREE BY PEREZ AND MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, WHO ARE REACTING IN TYPICAL EGOCENTRIC PARANOIC STYLE. WHAT PEREZ MUST WONDER ABOUT NOW IS WHAT THE USG'S POSITION AND PART IN ALL THIS IS. FEELING PERSONALLY SLANDERED HE WILL SURELY FEEL THAT THE USG HAS SOME OBLIGATION TO DEFEND HIM AND TO SPEAK OUT ON THE CHARGE, AS HE DID ONCE BEFORE WITH REGARD TO THE ALLEGED FBI REPORTS ON EXILES. IT WOULD NOT BE UNLIKELY FOR HIM TO DEMAND AN OFFICIAL USG DENIAL OR APOLOGY. IN ANY EVENT, WE CAN EXPECT THIS SITUATION TO CLOR HIS WHOLE ATTITUDE AND APPROACH TO THE US, AND TO HAVE A SHRIVELING EFFECT ON WHAT WERE HIS RECENT EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A FORTHCOMING CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION WITH US.
VAKY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, CORRUPTION, PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CARACA01800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770060-0724
Format: TEL
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770223/aaaaauon.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5551f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3271643
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO ALLEGATIONS OF CIA PAYMENTS TO PEREZ
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, VE, CIA, NY TIMES, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5551f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009